IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   **(Original)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving a call, wherein the call includes a call identifier;

determining a filter status of the call; and

transmitting a notification message to a remote node, wherein the notification message identifies the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

2.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving an open message, wherein the open message identifies a node operable to receive notification messages, and wherein transmitting the notification message comprises transmitting the notification message to the identified node.

3.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

4.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, further comprising receiving keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein transmitting the notification message comprises transmitting the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received within a predetermined time period.

5.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 4, wherein each keepalive messages identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

6.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining a filter status of the call comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

7.   **(Original)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving a request message from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

determining a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

8.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein determining a filter status associated with the call identifier comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

9.   **(Original)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to receive a call, wherein the call includes a call identifier;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable to determine a filter status of the call based on at least the filter list; and

wherein the network interface is further operable to transmit a notification message to a remote node, wherein the notification message identifies the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

10.   **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive an open message, wherein the open message identifies a node operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the network interface is further operable to transmitting the notification message by transmitting the notification message to the identified node.

11.   **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

12.   **(Original)**   The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the network interface is further operable to transmit the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received from the identified node within a predetermined time period.

13.   **(Original)**   The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

14.   **(Original)**   The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status of the call based on the filter list and at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

15.   **(Original)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to receive a request message from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable to determine a filter status associated with call identifier based on at least the filter list; and

wherein the network interface is further operable to transmit an acknowledgement message to the remote node, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

16.   **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on the filter list and at least an incoming calling number associated with the call, a telephone number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

17.   **(Original)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a filter node operable to:

receive a call, wherein the call includes a call identifier;

determine a filter status of the call; and

transmit a notification message to a network node, wherein the notification message identifies the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

a plurality of network nodes, each network node operable to receive the call and to take a filter action based on the filter status of the call.

18.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein one or more of the network nodes are further operable to transmit an open message to the filter node, wherein the open messages indicate that the network node sending the open message is operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the filter node is further operable to transmit the notification message to network nodes from which the filter node has received an open message.

19.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

20.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein one or more network nodes are further operable to transmit keepalive messages to the filter node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the network node sending the keepalive message is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the filter node is further operable to transmit the notification message to only network nodes from which the filter node has received a keepalive message within a predetermined time period.

21.   **(Currently amended)** The **system** ~~method~~ of Claim 20, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

22.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status of the call by determining the filter status of the call based on at least a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

23.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

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24.   **(Original)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a node operable to transmit a request message wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a filter node operable to:

receive the request message;

determining a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmit an acknowledgement message to the network node, wherein the acknowledgement message includes filter status information associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

25.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a telephone number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

26.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

27. **(Original)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving a call, wherein the call includes a call identifier;

means for determining a filter status of the call; and

means for transmitting a notification message to a remote node, wherein the notification message identifies the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

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28.   **(Original)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving a request message from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

means for determining a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

means for transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.